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Congress of the United States
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HEALTH
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March 18, 2020

Stephen M. Hahn M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Hahn,

We write today to strongly urge you to quickly take action to approve more automated testing as well as more reagents, the needed chemicals to make the coronavirus tests work. Specifically, we ask you to expedite approval for the manufacturer Cepheid's application as soon as it is filed for their automated equipment, as they are working in conjunction with Richmond University Medical Center, a major hospital in our community, to begin coronavirus testing.

With the automated Cepheid equipment approved, Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) can begin testing for the coronavirus and will dramatically boost the capacity for testing on Staten Island. Currently, the only other hospital on Staten Island is able to run the tests for this deadly virus but RUMC cannot without this approval. For such a large metropolitan area to have only one facility that is able to run the test for coronavirus is unacceptable and we are concerned about backlogs in the near future.

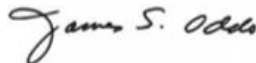
We urge you to use the full power of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as our states, cities, hospitals, labs, and manufactures to ensure that more automated testing equipment and reagents are quickly approved so that we can dramatically scale our testing capacity as soon as possible.

Additionally, we urge you to work closely with manufacturers to urge more of them to begin making coronavirus testing equipment and reagents. Finally, we need to be working closely with public and private labs around the nation to ensure that as many of them are stepping up to do coronavirus testing as possible. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Max Rose
Member of Congress



James Oddo
Staten Island Brough President



Michael E. McMahon
Staten Island District Attorney



Diane Savino
NY State Senator



Andrew Lanza
NY State Senator



Michael Cusick
NY State Assemblymember




Charles Fall
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